

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-20 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claim 11 is amended; and no claims are canceled or added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to; Claims 11-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,299,726 to Sauer in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,461,188 to Reul; and Claims 11-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,721,845 to Kunert in view of Reul.

With respect to the objection to the specification, the Abstract was amended by the Preliminary Amendment filed March 8, 2005. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), that rejection is respectfully traversed. Specifically, the applied art does not teach or suggest at least one electroconducting, non-transparent contact surface placed on a surface of a pane to connect the pane by soldering it to a connection piece, and in a region of the soldering location, the contact surface has at least one cutout via which a soldering filler metal is visible through the pane after the connection piece has been soldered to the contact surface, as recited in Claim 11.

The Office Action acknowledges that neither Sauer nor Kunert discloses the feature of a contact surface having at least one cutout as discussed above. However, the Office Action asserts that Reul discloses this feature. Applicants respectfully disagree. Specifically, Reul merely discusses a related art document that includes a prefabricated laminated component consisting of a thin metal strip and an insulating sheath composed of thin layers of plastic

sheets which surround the strip. This connection element also called a flat conductor, is provided locally with coaxial holes in two layers of the insulating sheath and of the metal layer, which holes form a contact window. Molten solder can be introduced into the window by means of which the metal strip is securely connected to an electrical conductor installed, for example, on a pane.

In contrast, the claimed invention recites that it is the electroconducting contact surface that is placed on a surface of the pane to connect the contact surface to a connection piece. Further, it is the contact surface that has at least one cutout through which a soldering filler metal is visible after the connection piece has been soldered to the contact surface. Again, in contrast, Reul merely discloses that holes are formed in the insulating sheath and the metal layer. The solder is introduced into the contact window and then the metal strip is secured to an electrical conductor installed on a pane. Accordingly, different elements in Reul include the window in contrast to the features of the claimed invention that include the cutout. As discussed above, the remaining applied art does not make up for the deficiencies of Reul discussed above, nor does the Office Action particularly assert as such.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

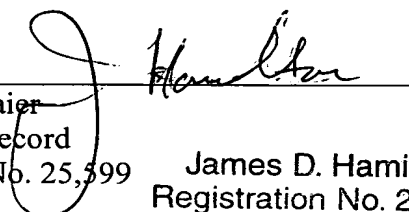
Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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